

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 24. Claim 24 is canceled, and claim 25 is amended to change its dependency from claim 24 to claim 1.

Claims 31-56 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Arana for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the October 3, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the reference listed on, and to return on and initial the copy of, the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement concurrently filed herewith.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,798,430 to Sato. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 24, as outlined above. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite a shutter member and an urging unit. See the specification at, for example, Fig. 11; page 45, lines 10-13; and page 49, lines 7-14. Sato does not disclose or suggest these features.

Sato discloses a color image forming device 1 having a visible image forming portion 4. See Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 1-5. The visible image forming portion includes various components for producing a visible image for each one of magenta, cyan, yellow and black

colored toner. See col. 4, lines 6-14. However, Sato does not disclose or suggest a shutter member and an urging unit. Therefore, Sato does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, Sato does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 2-23 and 25 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 31-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 31-56.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 and 25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: October 5, 2006

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